



U.S. Department of Justice

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ROCHELLE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGALLY REENTERING THE UNITED STATES

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; and ELISSA A. BROWN, Special Agent in Charge of the Chicago Office of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security - U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, today made the following announcement:

JUAN MONTES DE OCA RAMIREZ, 49, pleaded guilty in federal court on Friday, November 16, 2007, to illegally reentering the United States. In pleading guilty, Ramirez admitted that he had previously been deported from the United States to Mexico on July 17, 1996, subsequent to a conviction in Jim Wells County, Texas for murder. Ramirez further admitted in his plea agreement that after he had been deported, he illegally reentered the United States on or about 1998 near McAllen, Texas. Ramirez was found illegally present in the United States in Rochelle, Illinois, after he was arrested by the Rochelle, Illinois Police Department on December 30, 2006.

Sentencing for Ramirez will be conducted on February 27, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. Ramirez faces a possible maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a fine of up to \$250,000, up to 3 years of supervised release following imprisonment. The actual sentence will be determined by the United States District Court, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The case was investigated by the Chicago office of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and was assisted by the Rochelle, Illinois Police Department. The case is being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney MICHAEL D. LOVE.

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